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VOLGA BOATMEN

(See Bulletin No. 3)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Shanghai: Where East and West Mix But Do Not Melt

SHANGHAI has become the center of world interest. The British Government is concentrating soldiers and warships there to protect British residents. The advancing Canton Nationalist army looks on Shanghai as its next important prize of war. American missionaries are coming into the city from the provinces. American ships of war are on duty in the harbor.

Shanghai is the historic scene of the drama of East meeting West. Now the drama is reaching another climax. No other Chinese city and few other great cities are as cosmopolitan as Shanghai.

As one approaches Shanghai from Woosung, its port on the Yangtze River, the villages, graveyards and anchored ships of all kinds become more numerous. The hum and roar of factories and cotton mills belie the real atmosphere of this metropolis of Central China. It is not until the heavy, half-sickening smell of bean-oil, incense, opium smoke and of human beings penetrates the nostrils that the true Asiatic flavor of the city is revealed.

Shanghai, Like Venice, Is Built on Piles

Although the quaint Kiangsu junks are rapidly disappearing, the cargo junks, sampans, and other native boats still vie with the motor launches of huge steel and wooden vessels from every port on the globe.

Shanghai, like Venice, is a city built largely upon piles sunk far into the soft black sand and saturated clay upon which the city rests along the banks of the Hwang-p'u River. Huge reinforced concrete rafts are buried in this clay, and the foundations of the buildings are laid on them.

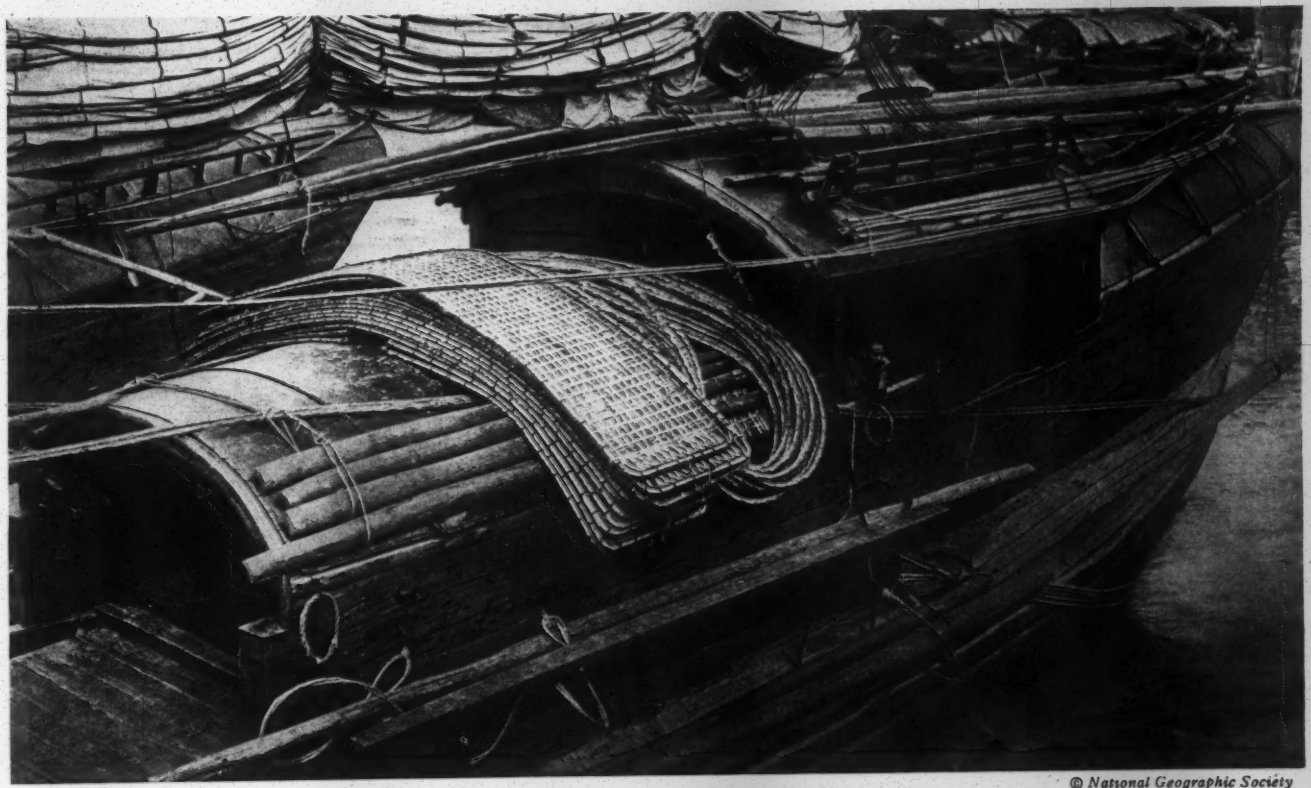
The foreign settlements are delightfully modern, with plenty of space, light and air, and are as clean and orderly as occidental cities. The French maintain their own concession under a government separate from that of the other twenty powers, with their own language and the "rues," "quais" and other signs typical of the homelands.

In striking contrast is the old Shanghai, where most of the Chinese live. Going through the gates of the native city one passes into another century. Old temples, cramped courtyards, where flowering peonies and chrysanthemums can be glimpsed in passing; an endless succession of narrow streets, hung with rococo banners of Chinese characters; a district filthy and reeking with a thousand odors.

"The Paris of the East"

A tea-house set in the middle of a stagnant pond is one of the breathing places of the old city, where sellers of jade and cheap jewelry, letter writers, fortune tellers, cobblers, menders, peddlers, jugglers, and others of Shanghai's polyglot population gather over teacups or chatter endlessly in high pitched voices. The Chinese theater is another native oddity. The want of scenery, the din of the orchestra and the piercing intonations and gaudy costumes of the actors furnish a spectacle which, while not always pleasing to western tastes, is always colorful and unusual.

Shanghai's nickname "The Paris of the East" refers more to the gaiety of its social life than to any external resemblance to the French capital. It is not



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ON SUCH BOATS AS THIS THE PROSPERITY OF SHANGHAI DEPENDS

Shanghai is to the Yangtze what New York is to the Hudson and New Orleans to the Mississippi. Many of the products of vast inner China come to the world in such river boats down the Yangtze. Petroleum products from the United States and cotton goods from England go into China on these boats. The heavy coils of woven bamboo cable are used for towing the boat over the rapids. From twenty to fifty men are required for each boat at many of the rapids (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Ireland Argues Whether Gaelic Shall Be Compulsory in Public Schools

MANY IRISH are raising objections to the idea of Gaelic being made compulsory in the public schools. The revival of Gaelic has come with the rise of the new Free State. But even Ireland does not know and will not know how many Irishmen speak Gaelic in preference to English until the census returns are published.

Ireland has already taught the world some Gaelic. We have learned to call Queenstown by the name "Cobh." We have become acquainted with the name Sinn Fein, the title of the political party that labored for independence for Ireland.

Gaelic Related to Welsh and Breton Tongues

The problem of Gaelic as some Irish see it is this: the children are taught to speak Gaelic in the schools. Then many of them emigrate to the United States where their Gaelic is of little use to them. They also point out that Irish authors writing in Gaelic would have much smaller sale for their books than if they wrote in English.

Gaelic is a very old language. It is believed to antedate the beginning of the Christian era. In the eighteenth century the thin trickle of Gaelic literature practically ceased. A few people struggled to preserve Gaelic during the nineteenth century until finally it was fostered by the new national feeling in Ireland.

Written or printed Irish Gaelic looks, at first glance, like Greek or Hebraic, or some weird Eastern tongue. It is in the Celtic language group. The Celtic family also includes Welsh, Breton, Scottish Gaelic, Manx and Cornish. The latter is extinct, and Manx, the dialect spoken on the Isle of Man, is reported fast dying.

Only 18 Letters in the Irish Alphabet

The Irish alphabet has only 18 letters, many of them similar to English characters. However, there is no J, K, Q, V, W, X, Y, nor Z. When a letter is sounded softly, with an aspiration or breath, a dot is placed over it. This dot represents an "H" following the letter. When a vowel is sounded long an accent mark is placed above it, similar in appearance to the acute accent in French.

One of the peculiarities of the spoken language is that a consonant can be sounded only with a vowel. By itself a consonant in Irish makes nothing but a whisper. "H" is neither a vowel nor a consonant. It is a breath. "A," "O" and "U" are called broad vowels. A broad vowel makes the consonant next to it broad. "E" and "I" are slender vowels and make the consonant next to them slender.

Bulletin No. 2, February 14, 1927.

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nearly so picturesque as Hongkong, or that queen of Oriental beauty, Foochow. Shanghai cannot set out a thousand lanterns on a dozen hills 1,800 feet up into the night, as Hongkong can. But her more intimate house and garden decorations are famous. There are lanterns everywhere. Certain types are used as shop signs. With their non-sputtering cold tallow candles they shed a perfect light.

Bubbling Well Road is the Riverside Drive, the Champs Elysees, or the Michigan Avenue of the foreign settlements. Along this winding modern thoroughfare a panorama of the city's life passes in review. Once it was the resort of closed broughams and fine cars of foreign dignitaries. Now it rattles with anything that can go on wheels. Rickshaws and wheelbarrows of the natives dart in and out among the carriages, taxis and limousines, furnishing a gay and motley spectacle all day long.

Shanghai Terminus of Many Chinese Railroads

Although the "settlements" were first laid out for foreigners alone, the Chinese have come over to them in great numbers to enjoy the protection and advantages of foreign rule. Rich Chinese often retire to the new sections to enjoy their wealth in safety, or to spend it in reckless dissipation. In the foreign settlements are white man's sports of all kinds, racing, golf, tennis, shooting, house boating, swimming, etc. Good libraries, magnificent clubs, theaters, hotels of all nations, and a spirit of cooperation among the foreign nations represented have made Shanghai one of the pleasantest places to live in the Orient.

Many of the railroads leading into the central part of the country have their terminals here. Shanghai is the Chicago of China in this respect. The first railroad in China was a 12-mile stretch connecting the city with its port, Woosung. Although the tracks were torn up by reactionaries soon after they were laid, the seed was well planted. To-day there are many lines of steel throughout the country.

A Center of Industry and of Printing

Shanghai is not only a great commercial emporium, handling nearly half the foreign trade of China, but it has also become, in recent years, one of the greatest Chinese industrial centers. It has a large laboring population. Cotton and silk cocoon winding mills employ thousands of workers. In addition there are a large number of smaller factories, manufacturing matches, paper, cigarettes, fireworks, wood carvings, jewelry, etc.

Much of the occidentalization that has come to China in the past half century has filtered through Shanghai, especially through the great printing establishment there which has turned out excellent translations, into Chinese, of the literature and ideas of the West. Shanghai also possesses several daily newspapers, printed in both foreign and native languages.

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Tristan da Cunha, in the Right World But the Wrong Place

IF TRISTAN DA CUNHA had a newspaper, its editor would have reason to spread a headline in heavy type across the top of the front page:

LIVERPOOL CLERGYMAN CHOOSES CUNHA POST

That is news in Tristan da Cunha. A clergyman from the English port city has "volunteered" to go to Tristan da Cunha. Friends praise him for his courage in consenting to cut himself off from the rest of the world.

Tristan da Cunha and two near-by particles of land in the South Atlantic illustrate a geographic principle: land isn't worth much if it isn't in the right place.

Tristan da Cunha lies between the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan. There is nothing wrong with the island's longitude, and its latitude is perfectly respectable. Many residents of San Francisco, Richmond, Virginia, and Wichita, Kansas, can be found who will declare that 37 degrees North is the best latitude in the world. Thirty-seven degrees South, which is Tristan da Cunha's latitude, is another story. If this volcanic island, two-thirds as large as Manhattan, were moved to 37 degrees North along its longitude line, it would make a good port of call between Gibraltar and the Azores.

Britain Cannot Afford to Send Warship Each Year

But Tristan da Cunha is so far away from everywhere that the British Government, in the interests of economy, has had to cancel the annual warship visit. The place is a trial to the foreign office in Whitehall, London. The foreign office would like to surrender the place to nature and the rats, move the inhabitants bag and baggage to a Cape Town reservation and be done with potato famine worries. But the inhabitants will have none of it. They love their home. Of course they have seen little of the world.

Tristao da Cunha, a famous Portuguese navigator, started out in 1506 on the trail of his predecessor, Vasco da Gama, to conquer more of the East Indies. But he was blown off his course rounding Cape of Good Hope and found himself 2,000 miles west of that point of Africa. There he discovered the island which now takes his name, slightly Anglicized Tristan da Cunha. Two small rock islands associated with Tristan da Cunha go by the names of Inaccessible Island and Nightingale Island, the latter named after an English naval officer. Inaccessible and Nightingale are inhabited only by penguins and other sea birds.

How a Shipwreck Put an End to the Grain Crops

At one time the Tristan da Cunha islanders grew grain and then there was less danger from a famine. A shipwreck ended that happy prosperity in a curious fashion. When the unfortunate vessel was thrown against the island's rocky cliffs rats deserted the sinking ship. The rats were better colonizers than the British, and it is a moot question now whether man or rodent owns the island. Certain it is that the rats put a stop to the growing of grain and have caused no end of damage. What Tristan da Cunha needs worse than anything is a Pied Piper. He could not charm away the children, since, according to the islanders, the lures of Cape Town do that already.

Not by a great margin has the State Department in Washington, D. C., missed

UMI

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LIVING-ROOM, DINING-ROOM AND KITCHEN IN AN ISLAND COTTAGE

Life is simple but hard in the islands off the Scotch coast: the Hebrides, the Orkneys and the Shetlands. They have advanced little in the modes of civilization. Each article in this room gives testimony to the difficult life of the people. Note the spinning wheels, stone slabs on the floor, open fireplace in the center of the room and handmade furniture (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Black Sea, Which Will Be Linked to Volga River by Canal

LINKING the Black Sea and the Volga River is the object of a canal project in Russia. The Soviet Government has decided to spend $65,000,000 cutting through the 55-mile land barrier to the Don. American engineers will be invited to participate in the project.

Digging the canal will give Moscow direct water transportation to the Black Sea and thence on to the Mediterranean and the oceans. Moscow is situated on the upper reaches of the Volga.

To reach the Volga from the Black Sea after the canal has been cut, it will be necessary to steam 250 miles through the Sea of Azov, 250 miles up the Don, and then 55 miles through the canal.

Life Does Not Exist Below 600 Feet in Black Sea

The waters of the Black Sea are unique among oceans and seas of the earth. Its depths are lifeless, and higher forms of life do not exist below 600 feet. It has a strong surface current toward the Bosporus, and an undercurrent flowing from the Aegean and the Sea of Marmora, to the east. The inflowing current is heavy and saline. Though the Dnieper, Dniester, Bug, Don, and Danube Rivers, from Europe, and the Kuban, Tchoruk, Sakaria, Yeshil Irmak, and Kizil Irmak from Asia have been pouring their fresh waters into it for centuries, that mighty undercurrent is responsible for the nearly 2 per cent of salt found in the waters of the Black Sea. At great depths the salinity reaches 2.25 per cent. If 100 quarts of Black Sea deep water were evaporated 2¼ quarts of salt would remain.

One biologist believes that when, during geologic ages, the union of the Black Sea with the Aegean took place, the great rush of salt water through the Bosporus into the Black Sea killed living things in its waters. The waters that stand in the great depression of the Black Sea floor, most of which lies between 6,000 and 7,000 feet below the surface, are practically stagnant.

Why the Black Sea Is Called the Euxine

This immense body of water, 165,000 square miles in area, has several other peculiarities. It has a cold layer of water down between 25 and 50 fathoms, caused by the sinking of the heavy cold surface water upon the denser saltier water beneath. Such a condition confines most of the circulation of the waters to the upper portion of the sea and leaves the greater depths undisturbed, at a more or less uniform temperature. Therefore there is little circulation of oxygen upon which fish and other marine life, as well as men and animals, depend.

The early Greek navigators called it Axenus, meaning "unfriendly to strangers." But when small Grecian cities began to spring up on its shores the name was changed to Euxinus, meaning "friendly to strangers." Under that name, the Euxine, it has figured in history and mythology for centuries.

Though the Black Sea has few advantages for pirates, such as safe harbors and hidden recesses among small islands, in its waters was built, and from Constantinople at its outlet was operated, one of the most powerful pirate fleets known to history. When the great Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent wanted to acquire dominant power in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, he sent for Khair-ed-din,

having the worry of helpless Tristan da Cunha on its shoulder. An American once claimed the island. Tristan da Cunha had a measure of prosperity in the early years of the nineteenth century when whales enticed sailors and wooden ships into the Roaring Forties. It was a haven for sailing ships from Salem, Gloucester and Boston. A Salem man named Lambert and a companion took up their residence on Tristan da Cunha. Lambert declared himself sovereign and sole possessor of the island, "on the rational and sure ground of absolute occupancy." He renamed the group "The Islands of Refreshment." His hope was to develop what might be called a "service station" for whaling ships. But Lambert and his partner were drowned two years later in the tempestuous seas which beset the island.

Still Tristan da Cunha has some things to recommend it. There are no laws. Once it was proposed to give the people a constitution, but they regarded such a document as unnecessary. The islanders manage their affairs without the complications of any written regulations.

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YOUNG CHINA

We think of China as a disorganized nation. It should be recognized that China has a diverse population. The fat boy in the foreground is the son of a well-to-do tradesman of the Yangtze Valley. The features of the boy wearing the foreign cap are suggestive of the southern type. The child to the right and rear of the fat boy is a slave girl (see Bulletin No. 1).

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The Hebrides Greet Santa Claus One Month Late

SANTA CLAUS has reached St. Kilda Island one month late.

St. Kilda is one of the lonely islands of the Outer Hebrides off the Scottish coast. Men, women and children swarmed out on the beach to meet the trawler, the first boat to bring mail and supplies to the island in three months.

Although the Hebrides have been almost within gunshot of some of the great steamship highways between the Old World and the New, they include some of the wildest and least known sections in the British Isles. When voyagers sail on the so-called "short route" to America they pass between the Hebrides and the north of Ireland.

Inner and Outer Chains of Islands

Like two flotillas of stone-turreted battle cruisers the Hebrides are strung along the west coast of Scotland, mainly parallel with the coast. The islands are roughly divided into two groups, the Outer and the Inner Hebrides. They are separated from each other by the Minch and the Little Minch, wide channels of water. The separation, however, is geological as well as geographical. The Outer Hebrides have a foundation of gneiss, a granite-like rock, while the Inner Hebrides, or at least the more northerly of them, lie on trap rock. In conversation, the two groups are often referred to as the "Western Islands."

As the Hebrides lie in the Gulf Stream the climate on the islands is mild, but exceedingly humid. Boots and waterproofs seem to be the typical costume of the islanders. Mists are almost perpetual, hiding the peaks of the mountains and making navigation in the vicinity hazardous.

Despite these handicaps, however, the Hebrides have played a significant part in the settlement and life of Scotland. For a long period the islands were a battleground between Scandinavians and the early Celts. The Vikings came to rob and slaughter, but they remained to settle down, marry the daughters of the land, and even adopt its language and faith. The Hebrides also figured largely in the feuds and struggles of the early Scottish kings.

Potato Blight Depopulated Islands

Early in the eighteenth century the lure of the New World almost depopulated the islands. A potato blight in 1846 brought about another wholesale exodus to America and South Africa. The loss of so many able-bodied men and women—for it was largely the younger, more energetic element that left—caused the standard of living to sink, and the islands became more isolated than ever.

When the Hebrides are not shrouded in fog the sun reveals bursts of sudden and unexpected beauty. In solitary and savage grandeur the cliffs and mountains rise sheer from the sea. The basalt combines every tint of warm red, brown and rich maroon, and blends with a Maxfield Parrish blue sky. Some of the islands are low and rolling, lonely moorlands carpeted with rock-strewn grass. Nearly all are pierced with wild and romantic fiords, such as are found elsewhere along the Scottish coast.

the younger Barbarossa, who was the triumphant master of the western Mediterranean.

When Turkey Ruled the Seas

When the notorious old sea dog hove in sight with his Barbary fleet tricked out in all its flags and pennants, the greatest of the Ottoman emperors knew that this vigorous, burly fighter, whose red beard which had given him his name was now white, possessed just the qualities of leadership which he desired. In the Turkish dockyards at the mouth of the Black Sea, Khair-ed-din laid out his galleys and in the spring put out into the Mediterranean with 84 vessels to write the story of Turkish sea supremacy upon the map of Europe.

The waters just south of the entrance to the Black Sea were a particularly favored haunt of pirates, because the numerous islands of the Aegean furnished a maze of straits and inlets in which they could escape from pursuit. But the Black Sea itself, though it offered pirates few of the advantages they desired, was an excellent home base from which to operate and in which to store their ships. It has almost no harbors and its southern shores are skirted with mountains, with few paths of access to the interior. The buccaneers of the southern coast, however, used to pick up their boats when the winter season set in and take them on their shoulders into the mountains out of the way of harm.

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A WELSH COCKLE WOMAN WAITING FOR BUSINESS AT CARMARTHEN, SOUTH WALES

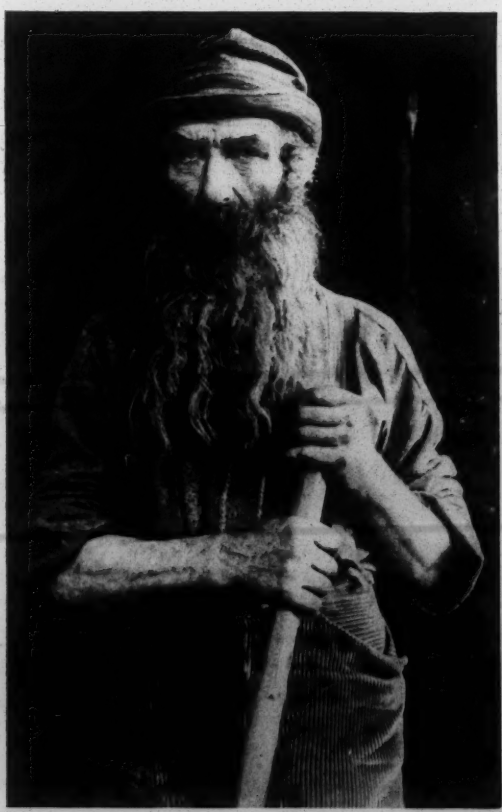
Although the Welsh and the Irish are separate peoples their languages are both of Celtic origin. The cockle, which measures in its shell from one to two inches in breadth, is regularly eaten by the poorer classes of England and Wales. Cockle fishing consists of raking the mollusks from the sand when the tide is out (see Bulletin No. 2).

The islands have a combined area of 640 square miles, about one-quarter of that of the State of Delaware. Only about one-ninth of this area is under cultivation. Only a fifth of the 500-odd islands that comprise the archipelago are inhabited. Potatoes, turnips, barley and oats are the staple crops, but in a few places the natives make a frugal living by raising sheep and cattle, fishing, distilling, and the making of tweeds, tartans and other woolen cloths.

Iona, Where Kings Were Brought to Be Buried

Rude old stone structures, religious symbols of a pre-Christian era, abound. Until comparatively recently, the Christian islanders conducted certain ceremonies about them. Iona, one of the smaller of the Inner Hebrides, was the "Blessed Isle" of early Christian days in the British Isles, and the scene of frequent pilgrimages. Kings of Scotland, Ireland, and Scandinavia were brought to be buried in the soil of this sacred island.

Bulletin No. 5, February 14, 1927.



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A DESCENDANT OF THE VIKINGS

Viking blood is a strong strain among the people of Scotland's islands. The Hebrides were among the first islands to be captured by the Vikings when they began their invasion of the British Isles.